

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INDIANA'S TWO-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TITLE I OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT AND WAGNER-PEYSER ACT

Indiana's proposed Two-Year Strategic Plan (PY05 and PY06) for Title I of the Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser Act incorporates the following key provisions:

- Reinforces the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's objectives and strategies to grow Hoosier jobs and employment, increase Hoosier personal income, and deliver premier customer service. It establishes priorities for the workforce investment system during the two-year period based upon these objectives of the administration.
- Reflects Governor Daniels' proposal to move toward a two workforce service area with the expiration of the designation of the fifteen workforce service areas on June 30, 2006. The planned structure will be comprised of two workforce service areas: Marion County and the Balance of State. Within the Balance of State workforce service area, the structure will be composed of eleven regional workforce areas. Each region will be led by a (maximum) sixteen member regional workforce board.
- Articulates the financial efficiencies of a two workforce service area ensuring increased funding for client services through the reduction of administrative costs. Funds will continue to be formula allocated, based on the federal formula, to the workforce service areas. The Balance of State workforce service area formula allocates all funds to the eleven regional workforce areas.
- Requests a waiver to apply 20 CFR 661.300(f), which permits a state board (the SHRIC) to carry out the roles of a local board. The request is based on:
 - The Balance of State area is comprised of 91 of Indiana's 92 counties. Thus the boundaries of the Balance of State area are almost the same as the area for the entire state.
 - The Balance of State area represents 87% of the population. This includes small, medium, and large-size cities and towns under the population of 250,000.
 - A large portion of the Balance of State area is rural and used for agriculture.
 - The Balance of State area is composed of the majority of Indiana's secondary and post-secondary institutions.

- Requires the enforcement of competitive bidding and separation of duties at each level of the workforce development system.
- Aligns Governor Daniels' strategies to integrate workforce development and economic development to achieve the federal and state priorities for a demand driven system that ensures a skilled workforce for the 21st Century Economy.
- Integrates workforce development programs and funding streams more closely to provide a customized workforce development solution to clients.
- Authorizes the state to build the workforce development system of the future while operating in the traditional structure in PY05. The plan ensures seamless service delivery during the transition to a two workforce service area state. During PY05 each region will establish a new regional structure, competitively procure each component of the system, and transition clients. The new regional structure will then take the helm on July 1, 2006 with a full structure and operations in place.
- Outlines use of Governor Daniels' fifteen percent discretionary funds through the Innovating Indiana Strategic Skills Initiative. The Strategic Skills Initiative is a competitive grant of \$23 million to the regions. Each region will research and identify occupational and skills shortages, root causes, and solutions. The objectives of the Strategic Skills Initiative are to:
 - Identify and alleviate present and future shortages of critical occupations and specific cross cutting skill sets within the industries that drive Indiana's economy, and
 - Instill a lasting, demand-driven approach to workforce development at the regional level.

This plan may be altered based on public comments and the recommendations of the Indiana State Human Resource Investment Council.